

Fighting for life

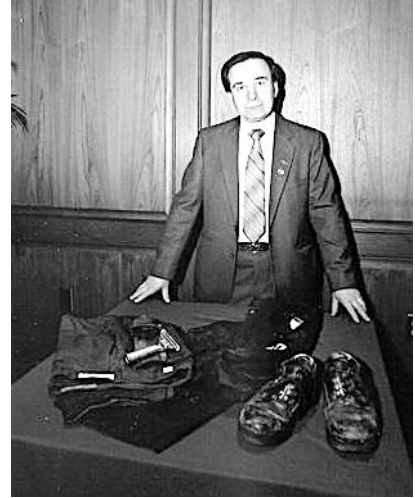
1 For Jan Demczur, September 11, 2001 started like any other day. **(A)** He arrived at the north tower of the World Trade Center at 6 A.M., got his window cleaning tools* and started work. He came to New York from Poland in 1980 and got a job as a window cleaner then.

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On that day in September, Jan started on the 90th floor, but stopped at 8.20 for a cup of coffee at the café on the 43rd floor. Afterwards he took the express elevator to go up to the 70th floor. Five other men were with him: four engineers* and an office worker*. **(B)** The elevator swung from side to side and suddenly dropped several floors. It was 8.48 A.M. What the men didn't know was that a hijacked* plane had crashed into the 90th floor of the building. What nobody knew was that the north tower would stand for no more than 100 minutes.

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Smoke started coming into the elevator. Was anyone coming to help? The men felt that they had to do something. They were able to pull the door open. There was a wall behind the door with the number 50 on it. They were on the 50th floor. **(C)** Jan saw that the wall was plasterboard*. 'Has anyone got a knife?' he asked, but the answer was no. Jan thought of his squeegee, his tool for cleaning windows, and he started to cut and dig into the wall. Everybody helped, one after the other. While they were working, there was another awful noise. **(D)** This time a plane had hit the south tower. It took the men about one hour to cut through the eight centimeters of plasterboard to make a hole that was big enough for them to get out of the elevator.

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There were no people on the 50th floor. The six men ran to the stairs* and started to make their long way down. When they were on the eleventh floor, there was a terrible crash. **(E)** The south tower had fallen. Walking was really difficult now. Jan wasn't sure if he would see his wife and two children again. At last the men reached the street, only five minutes before the north tower went crashing to the ground. **(F)** People ran for their lives, away from the building, and with those people were Jan and the five men from the elevator.

30

(G) His squeegee even went on display in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington D.C.

engineer – *Ingenieur/in*; to hijack – *entführen*; plasterboard – *Gipsplatte*; stairs – *Treppe*; tool – *Werkzeug*; to tremble – *beben*; worker – *Arbeiter/in*

1 Four sentences have been removed from the original text. Choose the most suitable position (A-G). Write down the correct letter of the gap behind the sentences.

1. The building trembled*, and it went dark.	
2. The media from around the world reported Jan Demczur's story of the small tool that saved six lives.	
3. The elevator went up, but moments later there was a terrible noise, a bang.	
4. Two men tried kicking the wall, but it didn't help	

2 Which lines tells you that ...? Don't fill in more than three lines.

- 1 ... Jan Demczur is an immigrant to the US? Lines _____
- 2 ... the elevator went down again? Lines _____
- 3 ... the men didn't succeed in getting out of the elevator at first? Lines _____
- 4 ... Jan Demczur had the idea of cutting the plasterboard? Lines _____
- 5 ... Jan Demczur was very scared? Lines _____
- 6 ... Jan Demczur's squeegee became famous? Lines _____

3 Finish the sentences correctly using information from the text

- 7 On September 11, 2001, Jan Demczur _____

- 8 At 8:48 A.M. _____
- 9 Jan used his squeegee _____

- 10 The six men were able to leave the north tower of the WTC before _____

4 The following words have different meanings. Which of the meanings is the one used in the text? Underline the best German translation.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 22 stop (line 5) | 24 take (line 21) |
| A <i>anhalten, stoppen</i> | A <i>nehmen</i> |
| B <i>abstellen</i> | B <i>mitnehmen</i> |
| C <i>(Arbeit) beenden</i> | C <i>annehmen</i> |
| D <i>verhindern</i> | D <i>brauchen</i> |
-
- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 23 swing (line 10) | 25 save (line 29) |
| A <i>schwingen</i> | A <i>retten</i> |
| B <i>schaukeln</i> | B <i>aufheben, sparen</i> |
| C <i>sich drehen</i> | C <i>sammeln</i> |
| D <i>Schwung haben</i> | D <i>abspeichern</i> |

1 1E 2G 3B 4C

2

13 Lines 3–4

14 Lines 10–11

15 Lines 17–18

16 Lines 18–19

17 Lines 25–26

18 Lines 29–30

3

was cleaning windows in the north Tower of the WTC

A hijacked plane crashed into the building

Jan used his squeegee to dig and cut a hole into the wall

Before the north tower went crashing to the ground

4

22 C

23 B

24 D

25 A